



News for Immediate Release

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DWR Schedules Drought Workshops for Ukiah, Santa Rosa

Sacramento -- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) will hold workshops in Ukiah and Santa Rosa this month to provide updates about drought impacts and response activities.

The Ukiah workshop will take place July 29 from 1:30 - 5 p.m. at the Mendocino County Water Agency, 890 Bush Street. The Santa Rosa workshop will take place July 30 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the Santa Rosa State Building at 50 D Street.

Drought response for small water systems will be a special focus of both workshops, which include presentations about water conservation programs and local groundwater conditions.

Water year 2009 is California's third consecutive dry year, with water years 2007 through 2009 representing the 12th driest three-year period in the state's measured hydrologic record. Statewide, runoff for water year 2009 is projected to be 71 percent of average, up from the 53 and 58 percent of average in water years 2007 and 2008, respectively.

Three years of below-average precipitation has reduced runoff available to recharge groundwater sources. Additionally, the State Water Resources Control Board's May 2009 revised water rights order concerning Sonoma County Water Agency diversions from the Russian River requires a 25 percent reduction in the agency's diversions from the river. Moreover, there is preparation of plans for Russian River water users to achieve specified water conservation goals – 25 percent in Sonoma County and 50 percent in Mendocino County. This spring, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors declared a local emergency due to drought conditions.

Small water systems have historically experienced the majority of drought-related health and safety impacts and water shortage emergencies. Most small system drought problems stem from dependence on an unreliable water source, commonly groundwater in fractured rock systems or in small coastal terrace groundwater basins. Historically, particularly at-risk geographic areas have been the foothills of the Sierra Nevada and Coast Range, inland Southern California, and the North and Central Coast regions. Although small systems serve a low percentage of California's total population, they constitute the majority of the state's public water systems. Small systems tend to be located outside metropolitan areas, often in lightly populated rural areas where opportunities for interconnections with other systems or water transfers are nonexistent.

For background information about drought and drought preparedness, see:
<http://www.water.ca.gov/drought/>.

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

Contact the [DWR Public Affairs Office](#) for more information about DWR's water activities.